



RELS336

Buddhism, State, & Society

Semester 1, 2018

SEMESTER ONE 2018

Lecturer:

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Course Coordinator:

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Buddhist thinking about ideal political order, including relationships between religion and state, monks and kings, morality and power, ethics and war, religious difference and the 'nation'. Buddhist political philosophy.

Often imagined as a pacific, other-worldly religion, Buddhism has for a long time been involved in social and political struggles throughout Asia. In Sri Lanka monastic groups have been involved in nationalist politics. In Thailand, Buddhist monks have involved themselves with environmental activism. In

Cambodia and Korea, Buddhist temples have served as key sites for anticolonial mobilisation. This paper examines the links between Buddhism and politics in the colonial and contemporary periods.

LEARNING OUTCOMES / GRADUATE PROFILE

The aim of this paper is to teach you to the many varied relationships between Buddhism and the state in Buddhist societies. Students who successfully complete the paper will be able to demonstrate a sound understanding of the following topics:

- The Buddha's social and political background;
- Buddhist kingship and alternative forms of governance;
- Nationalism, Buddhism, and the State;
- Buddhism, Marxism, and the Cold War;
- Buddhist perspectives on war and peace;
- Buddhist protest movements;
- Buddhist economics and environmentalism; and
- Political implications of Buddhist meditational practice.

LECTURER'S INTRODUCTION

Keziah Wallis lectures on Asian Religions, in particular on Buddhism and Islam. She is a final year PhD Candidate in both the Theology & Religion Department and the Archaeology & Anthropology Department. Her thesis, based upon fieldwork in Myanmar, examines the interaction between 'official' religion endorsed by the state and the 'unofficial' religious

beliefs and rituals which constitute part of the field of lived religious practices of many Burmese. Her wider research interests focus on the changing nature of the relationship between religion, culture, and modernity in the wake of colonialism and the current push for modernisation of both religion and society.

Please contact her either by telephone or email:

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Office hours: after class or by appointment:

Room G03, ground floor Humanities Annex, 97 Albany Street, Dunedin

RESOURCES

- Blackboard, the University's online learning tool;
- This Course Outline, which explains how the paper is taught
- eReserve, accessible through Blackboard, where you will find the readings;
- The Department's "Study and Style Guide" which recommends students use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide when writing essays. It is available online at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Please Note: You **must have access to Blackboard and your University email address** in order to complete this paper. You will receive access once your enrolment is complete. Communications from your lecturer regarding teaching matters will be provided **only** through Blackboard and your University email address (as outlined in the University's Student Communications Policy), so you must check these emails regularly, or arrange to forward them to your main address. eVision will also send important messages through your University email. If you have any concerns about your access to Blackboard or to other course resources, please contact the lecturer or administrative staff immediately so that these can be resolved.

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on the Department's website. In particular, we require you to read the section called "Essential Student Information." You will find it here:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/religion/courses/resources.html>

This page provides a number of useful resources such as the *Study and Style Guide* and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for making online discussion posts and submitting assignments electronically. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes and help to make the practical experience of distance study a straightforward one.

Distance students are advised to see this webpage for guidance and support:

http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/distance_study/

LECTURE SCHEDULE

On-campus students will meet every weekday at 10 am for lectures and students taking the paper by distance are encouraged to log in and participate at this time via streaming through Otago Capture (see the 'Lecture Streaming' link on Blackboard to access this). Recordings of the streamed lectures will be available a couple of hours after the lecture time. Please contact the Department if you experience any issues in viewing the lectures.

The essential readings for each class are listed in the schedule below. More detailed reading lists, including Supplementary Readings and recommended Further Readings which might be useful for assessments can be found on Blackboard within the appropriate Module folders. Please note that only the Essential readings and some Supplementary Readings are on eReserve. You should have access to eReserve through Blackboard shortly after you are course approved. Please contact the Department and the eReserve team (ereserve@otago.ac.nz) if you have any difficulties with the readings.

Module 1 Power and the State in Buddhist Thought	
26-Feb	The Buddha and the origins of Buddhist political thought Reynolds, "The Two Wheels of Dhamma" Zimmerman, "Only a Fool Becomes a King"
5-Mar	Republicanism and Kingship Smith, "Kingship, the Sangha, and the Process of Legitimation" Swearer, "Asoka, the Exemplary Buddhist Ruler" Tambiah, "King Mahāsammata" Goh, "The Genesis of the King"
12-Mar	(Re)Creating the Buddhist World Heine-Geldern, "State and Kingship" Tambiah, "The Galactic Polity" Recommended (Choose one): Aung-Thwin, "Heaven, Earth, and the Supernatural" Chou, "Reimagining the Buddhist Universe" Wjeyeratne, "The Mandala State"

Module 2 Buddhism and the Colonial Experience	
19-Mar	<i>Sāsana</i> decline and the “end of times”
	<p>King, “Colonialism and Buddhism” Turner, “<i>Sasana</i> Decline and Traditions of Reform” Prager, “The Coming of the ‘Future King”</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Foxeus, “The World Emperor’s Battle” Hansen, “Buddhist Responses to Social Change” Keyes, “Millenialism”</p>
26-Mar	Anticolonialism, Nationalism, and the Buddhist State
	<p>Harris, “Buddhism and Cambodian Nationalism” Sharf, “The Zen of Japanese Nationalism”</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Berkwitz, “Resisting the Global” Bartholomeusz, “First Among Equals” Chayet, “The Potala”</p>
Module 3 Buddhist Politics	
9-Apr	The Buddhist Ways to Socialism
	<p>Harris, “Buddhism and the Origins of Cambodian Communism” Large, “Buddhism, Socialism and Protest in Prewar Japan” Revolutionary Council, “The Burmese Way to Socialism”</p>
16-Apr	Managing Monks and Men
	<p>Huxley, “The Importance of the Dhammathats” Schonthal, “The Impossibility of a Buddhist State”</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Borchert, “On Being a Monk and a Citizen” Engel, “The Spirits Were Always Watching” Larsson, “Buddha or the Ballot” Schober, “Buddhist Visions of Moral Authority”</p>
23-Apr	Explicit Politics and Political Parties
	<p>Deegalle, “Politics of the JHU Monks” McCargo, “Buddhism, Democracy and Identity in Thailand”</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Brac de la Perrière, “A Generation of Monks” Walton, “Monks in Politics” Schonthal and Walton, “The (New) Buddhist Nationalisms?”</p>

Module 4 Engaged Buddhism	
30-Apr	Buddhist Protest Movements
	<p>Goldstein, Jiao, and Lhundup, "Conflict and the Cultural Revolution" Gravers, "Monks, Morality, and Military" Thich Nhat Hang, "In Search of the Enemy of Man"</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Buffetrille, "Self-Immolation" Whalen-Bridge, "Angry Monk Syndrome on the World Stage" Queen, "Ambedkar"</p>
7-May	Buddhism and Civil Society
	<p>Mabbett, "Buddhism and Freedom" Zsolnai, "Western Economics vs. Buddhist Economics"</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Jaquet and Walton, "Buddhism and Relief in Myanmar" Huang and Weller, "Merit and Mothering"</p>
14-May	Buddhist Environmentalism
	<p>Darlington, "The Ordination of a Tree" Harris, "Buddhism and Ecology"</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Clippard, "The Lorax Wears Saffron" Harris, "Buddhist Environmental Ethics and Detraditionalization"</p>
Module 5 Buddhism and Violent Conflict	
21-May	Wartime <i>Dhamma</i>
	<p>Harris, "Buddhism and the Justification of War" Maher, "The Rhetoric of War in Tibet"</p> <p>Recommended (Choose one): Jerryson, "Militarizing Buddhism" Schober, "Buddhism, Violence, and the State" Victoria, "Imperial-State Zen"</p>
28-May	Persecution of Buddhism
	<p>Bulag, "From Empire to Nation" Human Rights Watch, "The Suppression of the UBC" Mair, 'Rebirth Control'</p>

ASSESSMENT

Essay (3500 words) 35% Due 11 May

Students can write about any subject of their choosing that relates to the themes of the course. Topics *must* be chosen in consultation with the lecturer.

Seminar Discussions 15%

This paper will mix together lecture and discussion. Students will be expected to come to class, having prepared the readings, each week. For the Friday seminars you are asked to read *one* of the 'Recommended Readings' and be prepared to provide the class with a *brief* summary of the content and engage in discussion regarding these readings and the broader themes discussed in the Monday class. Discussion marks will be allocated based on this, along with participation in the Monday class discussion sessions.

Final Exam (3 hours) 50%

A final three-hour exam will be held during the exam period and will cover readings and lectures from the class.

The date for the examination will be sent to you as soon as it has been set by the Examinations Office. The venue for Distance Students will be set for you according to your 'Semester Address' on eVision so please ensure that this is up to date and is where you will be at the time of the exam (an email will also be sent to your University address checking that the venue is correct). Any questions about exams should be directed to the Examinations Office: examinations@otago.ac.nz.

REFERENCING SYSTEM

For writing essays, the Department requires that you use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide, which is the norm for many academic journals in the Humanities and is often recommended for theses in the humanities. The Department has prepared a *Study and Style Guide*, which outlines the Chicago Style and offers other advice on essay presentation. You may find it via the Department's "Essential Information" page and a link to the PDF is given here: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/religion/pdfs/styleguide.pdf>

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All assignments shall be submitted **electronically** via the "Assignment" feature on Blackboard by **midnight** on the due dates notified. Please do not submit paper copies. For full instructions about how to submit assignments electronically via Blackboard as well as other important information on plagiarism, grading, and deadlines, please see the "Essential Information" web page.

All Assignments submitted in the Department of Theology and Religion must be prefaced with a student **Plagiarism Declaration Form**. They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/religion/courses/resources.html>. It is also on the Blackboard site for this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity> at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT

The "**Essential Information**" web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library's resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative enquiries**, please contact:

The Administrative Assistant for Theology and Religion.

Email: religion@otago.ac.nz Phone: 03 479 8516

We recommend that you contact the Department as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

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www.otago.ac.nz/theology